Fifth Pay Commission's criticism of new Railway Zones

*109. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Central Pay Commission has criticised the creation of six new railway zones, as was announced in the last railway budget and recommended to halt the process forthwith; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has commented upon the rationale for setting up of six new zones and has recommended that their creation is likely to increase the cost of administration substantially without commensurated benefits. It has recommended that the Government halt the process even at this stage and proceed slowly in rationalising Zones after obtaining expert advice.

In view of the recommendations of an expert body like Railways Reforms Committee and subsequent changes that have taken place in the last twelve years especially extensive gauge conversions under Project Unigauge and coming up of Konkan Railway, increase in traffic volumes/patterns, the Government have decided to set up six new zones with headquarters at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The inaugural functions for these six new Zonal Ofices have also been held.

The formation of new Zones is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked Zones, imporove accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact Zones leading to better services and customer satisfaction.

Minimum Support Price for Copra

*110. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have decided to decrease the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the MSP recommended by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission;

(d) whether the Commission has given any recommendation for the improvement of coconut cultivation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) No, Sir, The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 'Milling' Copra at Rs. 2700 per quintal and of 'Ball' copra at Rs. 2925 per quintal for the 1997 season. This marks and increase of Rs. 200 per quintal for each veriety over the MSPs fixed for the 1996 season. The MSPs fixed for the 1997 season are the same as those recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

(a) and (e) The C.A.C.P. has not given any specific recommendation for the improvement of coconut cultivation as such. However, it has made the following recommendations which may help improve the cultivation of copra:

(i) the public agencies like KERAFED be authorised to also undertake commercial purchases of copra at an adequate scale;

(ii) in the case of 'Milling' copra in Kerala, the period for the purpose of price support operations and open market purchases by the public agencies be specified as January to June when prices of copra generally remain depressed;

(iii) (a) in area where primary cooperatives are not undertaking the marketing of coconut/copra on an adequate scale, coconut growers cooperatives be formed;

(b) efforts be stepped up to equip coconut/copra marketing cooperatives with adequate drying and storage facilities.

(iv) the methodologies being adopted by different coconut growing States for estimation of area and production be re-examined with a view to arriving at the reliable estimates; and

(v) Expeditious steps be taken to generate the estimates of cost of production of coconut producing states and make these available to the Commission.

The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the CACP referred to above except the recommendation No. (ii) above regarding the period of operation of the MSP in Kerala from fanuary to June of the year. The jovernment has decided that the period »f operation of MSP may continue for he full year as is existing at present.

प्रतिभा पलायन पर रोक लगाने हेतू कदम

*. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारी संख्या में भारतीय वैज्ञानिक विदेशों जा रहे है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रतिवर्ष विदेशों में जाने वाले ऐसे वैज्ञानिकों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ग) कितने भारतीय वैज्ञानिक अन्य देशों में कार्यरत और

(ङ) सरकार द्वारा इस प्रवृति को रोकने के लिए विज्ञान में डाक्टरेट डिग्रीधारियों को रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री एस. आर. बोम्मई) : (क) से(घ) कुछ भारतीय वैज्ञानिक रोजगार और उच्च अध्ययन के लिए अन्य देशों में जाकर वहां बस जाते है। किन्तु ऐसे प्रवासियों का कोई रिकार्ड नही रखा जाता है। देश में वैज्ञानिक प्रतिभा को बनाए रखने को सुनिशित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों में ये कदम शामिल है-विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिव्ययों में वृद्धि करना, नए वैज्ञानिक विभागों/ संगठनों को बनाना, बढी हुई प्रशासनिक तथा वित्तीय शाक्तियों को विज्ञान, विभागों को पूल के अंतर्गत वैज्ञानिकों तथा प्रौद्योगिकीविदों की अस्थायी नियुक्ति करना, इत्यादि।

Grant of 'with Pay' Study Leave to K.V. Teachers

*112. SHRI SANJAY DALIMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is some provision for grant of 'with Pay' or 'on duty' study leave to teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas to undertake full-time higher studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such leave could be granted for study of subjects at outstations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Grant of study leave in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is broadly patterned on the study leave rules contained in the Central Civil Service (Leave) Rules, 1972. Staff with a minimum of 10 years of service are eligible for study leave for literary and academic purposes in case of teaching staff upto the level of Principal and for the purposes specified in CCS Rules in respect of other staff. Further, study leave shall not be granted at a time to more than 1% of regular employees in a cadre.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. Central Civil Services (CCS) Rules themselves provide for study at out stations.